

Overview

This lesson teaches students about the symbols on the Kansas flag. Students will use word recognition activities to learn the main words in this lesson, practice choral reading, and construct a flag of their own. The activities are presented in five short lessons.

Standards

History:

Benchmark 3, Indicator 2 The student recognizes the Kansas flag and identifies the symbols on it (e.g., motto, stars, American Indians and buffalo, farmer plowing, pioneers and cabin, steamboat, etc.).

Reading:

Benchmark 2, Indicator 5 The student uses a variety of word-recognition strategies (e.g., practicing words in isolation) to read fluently.

Objectives

Content:

- The student recognizes the Kansas flag.
- The student identifies important Kansas symbols used on the Kansas flag.

Skills:

- The student uses word-recognition skills to learn Kansas symbols.
- The student retells how the symbols on the flag record the history of Kansas.

Essential Questions

- What is a flag?
- What is a symbol?
- What can a flag tell us about our state?



Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- **The Kansas Flag**
- **Indian and Buffalo**
- **Boat and Wagon**
- **Farmer and Cabin**

Day 1:

1. Introduce students to the fact that every country has its own flag. Have them locate the United States flag in your classroom. Point out the symbolism in the U.S. flag—the 50 stars represent the 50 states and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies.
2. Explain that every state also has its own flag. Every state flag has symbols that represent that state. If you have a Kansas flag in your classroom, point it out to the students. Explain that this lesson will teach them about the early history of Kansas through the symbols on the flag.
3. Distribute a copy of the **Kansas Flag** *Read Kansas* card to each student. Read the information on the back of the card. Have the students locate the images on the front of the card as you read about them. To practice reading, have the class read the text aloud as a group.
4. Next, students will make a flag folder to hold their cards and future **Word Work** worksheets. On the last day, they will make the folder into a Kansas flag.
 - Distribute a piece of dark blue construction paper (12 inches by 18 inches) and a copy of the **State Seal** worksheet.
 - Fold the construction paper in half to form a 12 inch by 9 inch folder.
 - Cut out and glue the state seal to the front of the folder.
 - Set aside for the next day.

Day 2:

1. Briefly review yesterday's lesson.
2. Provide each student with a copy of the **Word Work 1** worksheet. Explain that these are two new words they will be reading in today's lesson.
 - Write the word "Indian" on the board and underline the first letter. Ask students what sound the "i" makes. Ask them to find the small words within the word "Indian."
 - Repeat this exercise with the word "buffalo." Ask them to find the double consonants and tell you what sound they make.
3. Distribute a copy of the **Indian and Buffalo** *Read Kansas* card to each student. Read the information on the back of the card to the class. Have students look at the images on the front of the card as you read. Read the back of the card again with students following along. To practice reading, have the class read the text aloud as a group.
 - If students are using a photocopy of the **Indian and Buffalo** *Read Kansas* card, have them underline the new words on their copy of the card.
4. Using the **Word Work 1** worksheet, have students write a sentence using both of the new words.
5. Redistribute the flag folders.

- Have students color the small images of the buffalo and the Indians at the bottom of the page and cut them out.
- Students have pasted the state seal onto the front of their folders. Work with students to locate the beginning letter for each word that describes the image. Have them paste the image in its proper location on the seal.
- Place the **Word Work I** worksheet inside the folder.

Day 3:

1. Repeat lesson from Day 2 using the **Word Work 2** worksheet and the **Boat and Wagon Read Kansas** card.
 - Write the word “boat” on the board and underline the first letter. Ask students what sound the “b” makes. Ask them what sound “oa” makes.
 - Repeat this exercise with the word “wagon.” Ask them to find the small words within the word “wagon.”
2. Continue the lesson as outlined on Day 2.

Day 4:

1. Repeat lesson from Day 3 using the **Word Work 3** worksheet and the **Farmer and Cabin Read Kansas** card
 - Write the word “farmer” on the board and underline the first letter. Ask students what sounds the “f” makes. Ask them to find the small word within the word “farmer.”
 - Repeat this exercise with the word “cabin.” Ask them to find the small words within the word “cabin.”
2. Continue the lesson as outlined on Day 2.

Day 5:

1. Make sure that a Kansas flag or **The Kansas Flag Read Kansas** card is on display in the classroom where students can see it.
2. Briefly review the lessons on the Kansas flag that you have done for the last four days.
3. Ask students to remove their papers from the flag folder and open it so that the inside (blank) side of the folder is right side up. This will become the blue background for the flag each student will create.
4. Provide each student with a copy of the **Make a Flag** worksheet. Have students color the pieces on the worksheet. Have students cut out one at a time the seal, sunflower, bar, and the word “Kansas.” As a class, have students glue each into its proper location on the flag as you reinforce the word’s initial sound.
5. Upon completion of their flags, ask the students to pick one symbol and tell something they have learned about it.

Assessment

1. Observe the students’ ability to correctly sound out and break apart the words and match them to the correct image.
2. Evaluate the students’ ability to locate the symbols in the proper location on the state seal.
3. Evaluate the students’ ability to correctly construct the Kansas flag.

For the Teacher

What is a symbol?

A symbol is something that is recognized to stand for something else by association, resemblance, or convention. For example, a Jayhawk represents the University of Kansas and a Wildcat represents Kansas State University.

What is the history of the Kansas flag?

The Kansas state flag was adopted as an official symbol of Kansas by the state legislature in 1927. The history of the state is written in its flag.

- The **sunflower** is a symbol of Kansas. The Kansas legislature made it the official state flower in 1903.
- The twisted gold and blue **bar** below the sunflower represents the Louisiana Purchase. In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson purchased this land, more than 820,000 square miles in the middle of the country, from France. It doubled the size of the country. Part of this land became the state of Kansas.

The **Great Seal** of the state of Kansas is the main feature of the flag. It was adopted as the first official symbol of the state by the Kansas legislature on May 25, 1861. What is the history of the Kansas flag?

- It contains many symbols:
 - The east, from which many settlers came to Kansas, is represented in the rising sun.
 - Commerce is represented by a river and a steamboat. Steamboats made it as far as Manhattan and Fort Riley on the Kansas River.
 - Agriculture was the basis for the state's future prosperity. It is represented by the man plowing with a team of horses, a cabin, and the removal of the buffalo and Indians.
 - The covered wagons and oxen represent the travelers to Kansas and on the trails through Kansas. Thirty-four stars in the constellation signify Kansas as the thirty-fourth state admitted to the Union.
 - January 29, 1861, is the date Kansas became a state.
 - The motto, *Ad Astra per Aspera*, was adopted as the state motto in 1861. The translation of the Latin phrase is "To the stars through difficulty" which underscores the difficulties Kansas Territory experienced to become a state.
- The name of the state, **Kansas**, was added to the flag in 1961.

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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Library of Congress
- Kansas Secretary of State's office

Name: _____

Word Work 1



Indian

Indian



buffalo

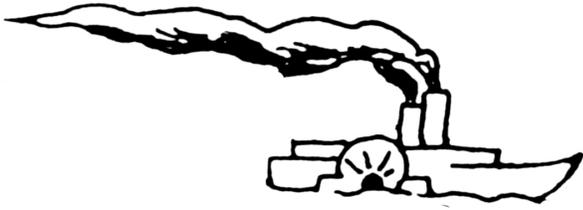
buffalo

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dotted, bottom solid).



Name: _____

Word Work 2



boat

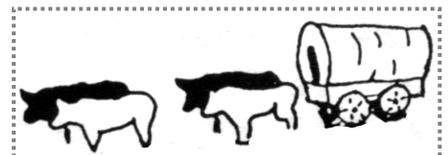
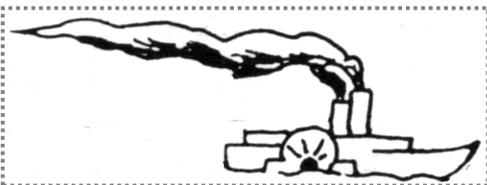
boat



wagon

wagon

Four sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dotted middle line, and a solid bottom line.



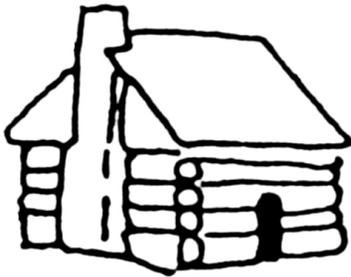
Name: _____

Word Work 3



farmer

farmer



cabin

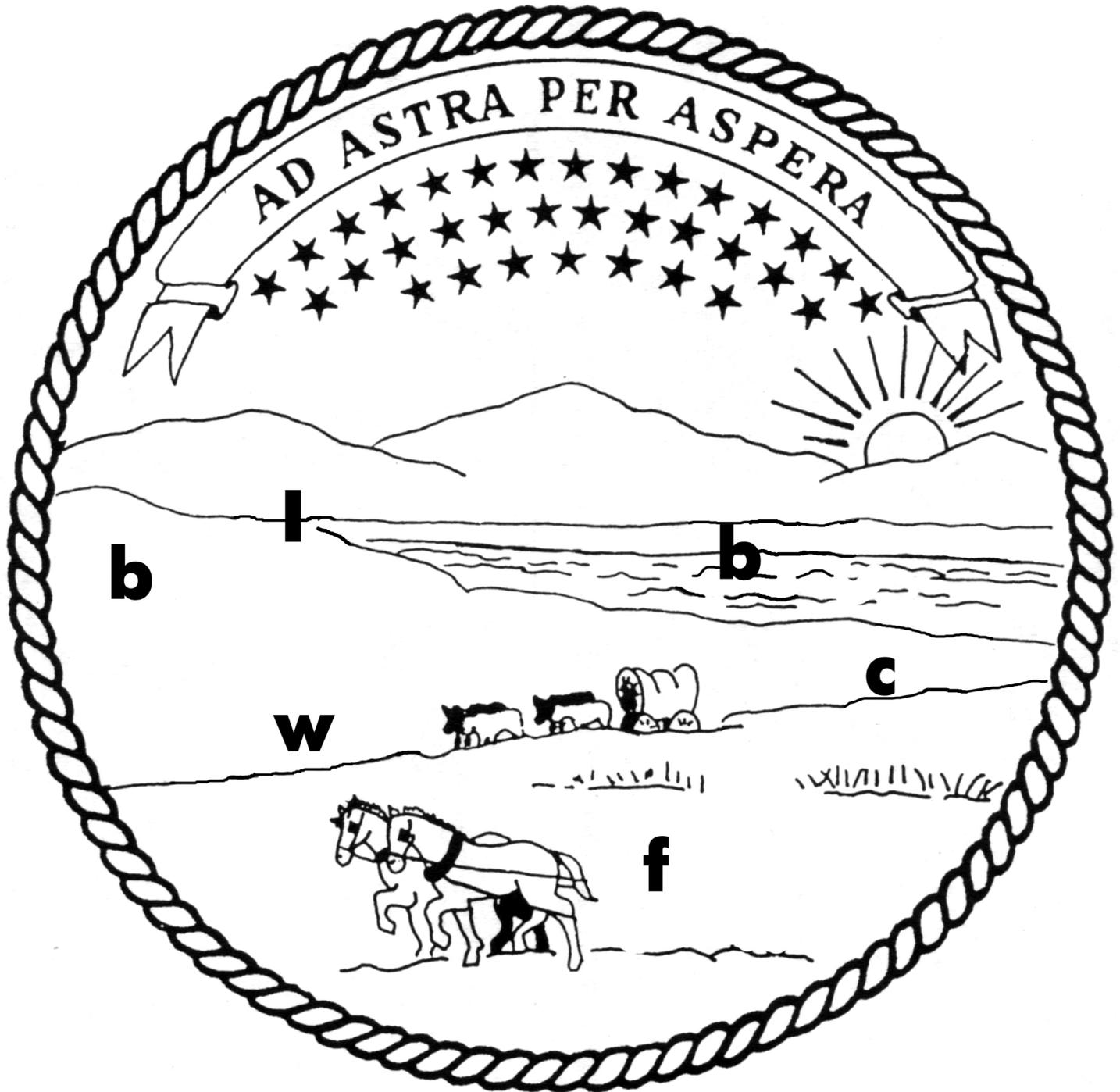
cabin

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



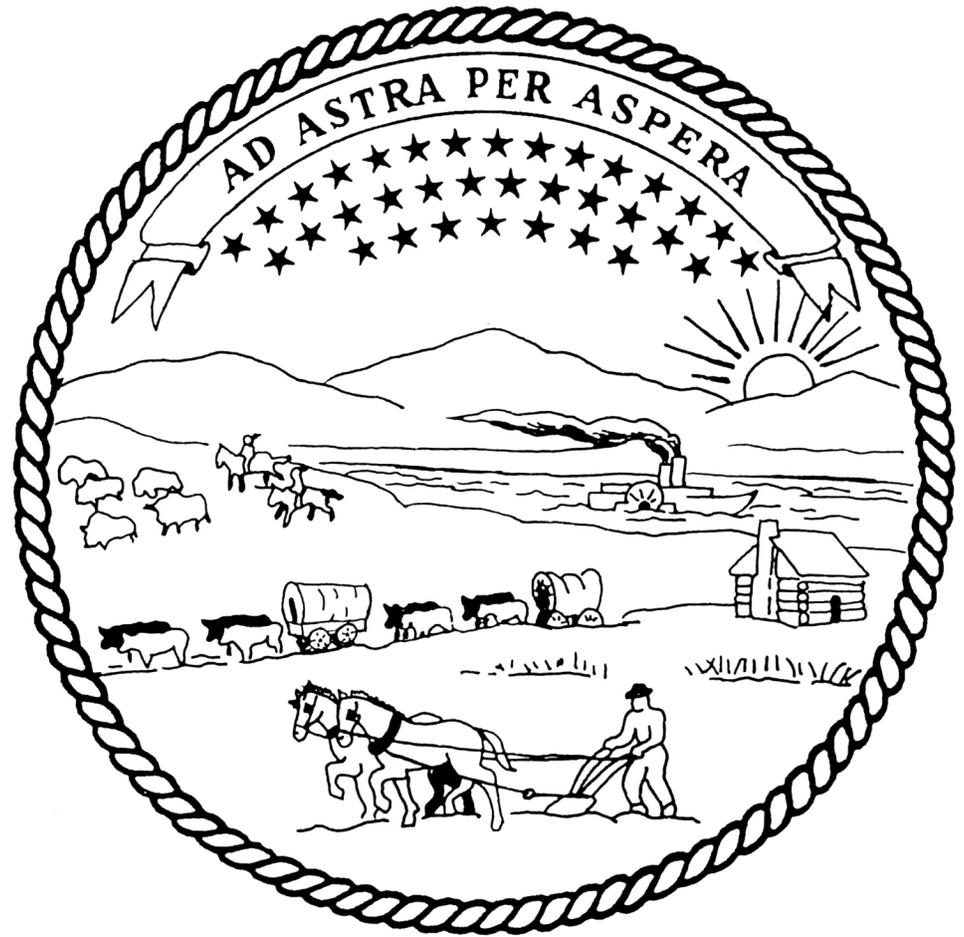
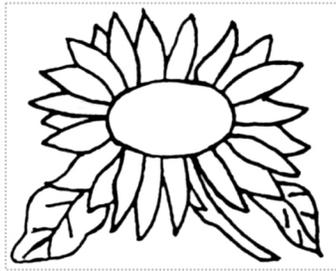
State Seal

Worksheet



Make a Flag

Worksheet



KANSAS